

March 16, 1999

peacekeeping operation implementing a Kosovo peace agreement:

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, United States armed forces are being stretched too thin. They've been asked to take on peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and now possibly Kosovo. President Clinton told Congress and the nation that the United States' deployment to Bosnia in 1995 would be over in one year. However, the mission in Bosnia has continued for four years with no strategic exit plan in sight and at a cost to the United States of \$10 billion. Not only are these peacekeeping missions costly, but they are degrading the overall readiness of our fighting force.

Mr. Chairman, 2,200 troops from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), currently stationed aboard Navy ships in the Mediterranean, will be part of the initial force moving into Kosovo as soon as an agreement is reached between the ethnic Albanians and the Serbian government. However, that unit is headed into its final month of a six-month deployment and scheduled to be home in North Carolina by May 13th. to be home by that time, the unit will have to leave Kosovo no later than mid-April. Mr. Chairman, that leaves the Administration with limited operations, the most prominent one being extending the length of the unit's deployment. How long will this unit be in Kosovo? How much longer will they be away from their families, beyond their already served six month deployment?

Mr. Chairman, for America's armed forces to sustain this Administrations' peacekeeping pace, the force must be augmented by an increased amount of part-time Reserve and National Guard personnel. Not only are Reserve and National Guard personnel being forced to leave their families more often, but they are also losing an increased amount of training and technical knowledge from their careers here in the United States. These military personnel are being forced to explain open-ended deployments to their employers who are becoming less willing to continually lose their skilled employees. Mr. Chairman, we will not be able to keep these individuals in the Reserves and National Guard if we continue to send them into peacekeeping situations around the globe. In the future, when Reserve and National Guard personnel have the opportunity to leave military service, they will choose their family's quality of life and their career over serving our country.

Mr. Chairman, a Kosovo peacekeeping mission will place a heavy burden on America's armed forces compromising their readiness levels, the quality of life of their families, and the national security of the United States. We cannot continue to ask our military to do more with less. Mr. Chairman, before the Administration decides to deploy troops to Kosovo, I ask that they lay out their plan in detail to Congress. The Administration should not be able to put the men and women of our armed forces in harm's way without explaining their reasons for doing so.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REPORT FROM INDIANA—CLARK COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others. Today, I want to mention a truly gentletady from Clark County, Indiana who I had the privilege of meeting recently.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana has not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes."

I met a genuine Hoosier Hero in Clark County, Indiana recently. She is Rhonda Haycraft. Rhonda has made Clark County a better community through her remarkable efforts on behalf of less fortunate members of the community. She has been a real force for good for her neighbors. Rhonda has worked very hard to make sure that needy children have the food and clothing they need to live in decency. She has even adopted a less-fortunate family, and looks after their welfare. Rhonda has given this family the most precious gift possible, hope.

She doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; she does it for the smiles and laughter. Unbelievably her devotion to service does not stop there. She is very active in her church through Sunday School and playing the organ. She is a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Rhonda deserves the gratitude of her county, state, and nation and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

THE PRINTED CIRCUIT INVESTMENT ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my Ways and Means Committee colleague, Mr. MATSUI, in introducing the Printed Circuit Investment Act.

This simple and straightforward bill will allow manufacturers of printed wiring boards and printed wiring assemblies, known as the interconnecting industry, to depreciate their production equipment in 3 years rather than 5 years under current law. Printed wiring boards are those ubiquitous little green boards loaded with tiny wires and microchips which are the nerve centers of electronic items from television sets to computers to cellular phones.

4647

The interconnecting industry, as with so much of the electronics industry, has changed dramatically in just the last decade. While once dominated by large companies, the industry now consists overwhelmingly of small firms, with many of them located in my home State of Illinois. The rapid pace of technological advancement today makes interconnecting manufacturing equipment obsolete in 18 to 36 months—tomorrow's advances will further reduce that time to obsolescence. To keep pace with these advances, companies in the industry spend billions of dollars each year on capital costs. Considering that this is an industry dominated by small U.S. firms competing in ever more competitive world markets, clearly we need a Tax Code that more clearly reflects reality.

The depreciation rules found in the Tax Code, of course, have not kept pace with the realities of this dynamic market. The industry currently relies on tax law passed in the 1980's, which was based on 1970's era electronics technology. Competitors to American firms in Asia, however, enjoy much more favorable tax treatment as well as direct government subsidies. We must remove the U.S. Tax Code as an obstacle to growth in this industry. The Printed Circuit Investment Act will take a step in that direction. Quite frankly though, I view this as a very modest step and would like to provide much more generous tax relief to these businesses, considering the fierce competition from foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, the Printed Circuit Investment Act will provide modest tax relief to the interconnecting industry and the 250,000 Americans whose jobs rely on the success of this industry. I urge my colleagues to join me and Mr. MATSUI in providing this relief by cosponsoring the bill.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY AND HERB GELFAND

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DIXON, and I rise today to pay tribute to our dear friends, Beverly and Herb Gelfand, who this year are being honored by the Bureau of Jewish Education. Behind the remarkable rise in Jewish education in southern California—28,000 students, 2,000 teachers and 172 schools—are the Gelfands, who stand second to none in their commitment to the cause. Over the years they have willingly given of their time and resources in order that an increasing number of parents can send their children to Jewish day schools. Beverly and Herb are owed a huge debt of gratitude not only for their commitment to the growth of Jewish education, but to the strength of the Jewish community as a whole.